
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6113 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF MISSING ADULT PERSONS REPORTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill changes the way police must handle reports of missing adults, which the bill defines as anyone age 18 or older. It requires the state and local police to accept without delay any report of a missing adult. And it requires local police departments that receive a report of a missing child under age 18, rather than those under age 15 as required by current law, to immediately accept the report for filing and notify all on-duty police officers and other appropriate law enforcement agencies. By law, they must take the same actions with regard to mentally impaired people age 18 or older and adults age 65 or older.

The bill requires the State Police unit that investigates cases of missing adults to enter, as appropriate, all information collected on the adult into the National Crime Information Center database and any other applicable federal database with all "practicable speed."

The bill requires that, after performing any death scene investigation in a suspected homicide case, the official with custody of the human remains must ensure that they are delivered to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. It requires the chief medical examiner to obtain samples of tissue, whole bone, or hair suitable for DNA typing from the remains and submit them immediately to the Department of Public Safety Division of Scientific Services.

The bill extends, from January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2012, the deadline for the Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council to develop a missing person policy and extends the provisions to include police handling of missing adult reports. (POST has already

developed a policy.) The bill also requires each police basic or review training program the State Police, POST, or a municipal police department conducts to include training in the policy and in the use of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System created by the “Office of Justice Program’s National Institute of Justice.”

*House Amendment “A” mandates that local police immediately accept reports of missing persons under age 18, not just those under age 15 and lowers, from 21 to 18, the age of a covered adult.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

MISSING PERSON POLICY

Current law required POST, by January 1, 2008, to develop and implement a policy for accepting reports of missing persons. The bill extends the deadline to January 1, 2012. It also specifies that the policy must include provisions on missing adults, but the legal effect of this addition is unclear because current law covers any missing person without regard to age. Under current law, the policy must include:

1. guidelines for accepting reports;
2. types of information the agency must collect and record;
3. circumstances that indicate that a missing person should be classified as high risk;
4. types of information the agency should provide to anyone making a report, the missing person’s relatives, or other people who can help the agency find the person; and
5. agency responsibilities and procedures in responding to a report.

The bill requires that the policy also include preferred methods of response that are sensitive to the emotions of a person making a report.

BACKGROUND

Related Law

Missing Child Clearinghouse. By law, local law enforcement agencies must submit to the state Missing Child Information Clearinghouse reports of all missing (1) children under age 18, (2) mentally impaired adults age 18 or older, and (3) seniors age 65 and older. Parents may also notify the clearinghouse once they report to local police.

The clearinghouse is the state's central repository of information on missing children. But, subject to available resources, the clearinghouse may collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information to help locate missing persons other than those mentioned above (CGS § 29-1e).

Related Bill

sSB 765 (File 258), reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee, contains the same provision as this bill on the actions local police departments must take on reports of missing children under age 18.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/08/2011)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 5 (04/28/2011)